



AN

ACCOUNT

OF A

MEDICAL CONTROVERSY, &c.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

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MEDICAL CONTROVERSY

BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

A N
A C C O U N T
O F A
M E D I C A L C O N T R O V E R S Y
I N T H E
C i t y o f C O R K,

In which Five PHYSICIANS are engaged;
With the remarkable Manner of its being hitherto
conducted.

To Which are Subjoined
Two Letters from Dr. MEAD and One from Dr.
FREWIN, to the different Persons concern'd.

In a Letter from a Gentleman there to his Friend in *London*.

Blair?

— *Respice primum*
Et scrutare Viros. — *Dedit hanc Contagio Labem,*
— *Sicut Grex totus in Agris*
Unius Scabie cadit, & porrigine Porci,
Uvaeque conspecta livorem ducit ab uva.

Juvenal, Sat. 2d.

Sapientiam sibi adimunt, qui sine ullo judicio probant,
et ab aliis, pecudum more, ducuntur.

Lactantius de Origine Erroris.

Break one Cobweb thro',
He spins the slight, self-pleasing Thread anew.
Destroy his Fib or Sophistry in vain,
The Creature's at his dirty Work again.

Pope's Epist. to Dr. Arbuthnot.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. DODSLEY in *Pallmall*, and sold by
M, COOPER in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1749.

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IN THE
MEDICAL CONTROVERSY



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A N
A C C O U N T
O F A
M E D I C A L C O N T R O V E R S Y, &c.

C O R K, *June*, 20. 1749.

S I R,



S I have sent you a short Account of the little I have seen of this Country, I think I ought to give you a Specimen too of the Conversation and Parties *that have lately divided* this flourishing City, amidst all the Hurry and Occupation of a great Trade.

A Gentleman here conceives he has made a Discovery in Morals, which is, that there is a certain equal Quantity of *Discord* in the World, like what has been mentioned by some Philosophers of *Water*. Exist where it will, whether it is drawn up to float above us in Clouds, or pour'd down in Showers, whether it may run East, West, North, or South, in greater or smaller Bodies, the Bulk of

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the whole is still the same: *Discord* therefore, says he, in the same manner is always of a certain stated Quantity in the World, though it may often appear unequally parcelled out; of late, perhaps, it lay together in a Heap upon the middle Continent of *Europe*, and now it seems to have gone straggling into particular States, as *Holland*, *Corfica*, *Italy*, or our three Kingdoms; though it threatens soon to move Northward in a large Body, to possess the different Coasts of the *Baltick*. It is much the same in a particular Kingdom, for if in the Summer Season it may be lurking among Gentlemens Seats, or Election Boroughs, yet you'll be sure to find it, in the cold Weather, huddled together in great Towns, and more especially in a Metropolis, where it is apter to sharpen and ferment like other Fluids. Now with this Consideration, one Place may be looked upon as a kind of Drain upon another, according as this Tide may pour itself into different Channels, *Ireland* sometimes draws it off from *Great Britain*, and in this Respect, this same City of *Cork* has of late engrossed the *Quantum* allowed for this Island, so as in some Measure to dry up the rest of the Kingdom.

Happy therefore, and wise was the Disposition of Providence, which has allowed of these Issues in a Kingdom, which may so usefully drain off this morbid Humour from the rest of the Body Politick; and it is to be hoped, that in this Age of Projectors an able Head may come forth and find out some beneficial Scheme of diverting this Pestilence of Contention towards the Hills of *Kerry*, or the Bogs of *Conaught*, where it may be hemmed in, rarified or condensed, as shall seem most proper, while the other Parts of this Kingdom may enjoy a State of perfect Tranquillity in the Bond of universal Christian Affection.

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The Animosities which have lately busied People here, have been either *Ecclesiastical*, or *Medical*, for the other learned Profession of the *Law*, which the Spirit of Contention formerly seems to have taken up as its chosen Abode, it here emptied, at present, to fill up the other two. And what is still more remarkable, and which, indeed, supports the former Theory, is, That when the Clergy are by the Ears, the Physicians are at their Ease, and when the Physicians rise to Battle, the other Body seem becalmed. Though it is hard to say in either of these Cases, whether it is the Spirit of mutual Forgiveness, or that their Attention is taken off by this new Uproar, or perhaps only a short Rest after the Fatigue of Fighting, whether it is one or all of these, is not my Business to settle, nor am I, indeed, sufficiently instructed so to do. At present I have only Time to give you a short Account of the *Medical* Battle, and shall reserve the other for an after Amusement.

The Physical Controversy then, has been carried on by four Physicians on the one Side, of the Names of *Rogers*, *Flaberty*, *Bonbonous* and *Connell*, and on the other Side, by one Dr. *Blair*; It seems these four Gentlemen had attended one Mr. *Baker* a Merchant of this City, during a violent Fever, whom after ten or twelve Days, they gave over as a dying Person, or were so understood by the Family of the Person indisposed, as indeed, one of the Physicians came, as deputed from the rest, to desire his Relations should send for a *Clergyman* to communicate the disagreeable Tidings in a proper Manner to his Wife. One of these Relations then bethought of sending for this Dr. *Blair*, to try if he could do any Thing for Mr. *Baker*, who was thus given over, and at the same Time they sent for one of the other Physicians, to communicate what

had been already prescribed ; which this Physician refused either to come, or to do, as declaring he could not bear to see his Friend die. Dr. *Blair* therefore, being informed of the above, visits Mr. *Baker*, orders him to be bled in one of the Arteries of the Forehead, and prescribes a Julap to stop a violent Looseness he had ; he is bled, he takes the Julap, and is thought by all the Family, next Morning, to be better. The other Physicians come, quarrel with every Thing prescribed by Dr. *Blair*, insist that the Julap was poison, and the Bleeding Murder, declare the Patient much worse, and therefore thought him easier to be cured, which they undertake with greater Chearfulness and Confidence of Success than before, they refuse consulting with Dr. *Blair*, because he had disturbed the dying desperate Way their Patient had been in, since, as they expressed it, “ he was approaching a Crisis “ that ought not to have been prevented.” The Friends of the Patient, notwithstanding, desire the said Dr. *Blair* to continue his Attendance, and he was not discharged till after Dr. *Rogers* and other two of them were, when Mr. *Baker* was out of all Danger. In short, Mr. *Baker* recovers, and the Town talk variously. Many insisted he was cured by Dr. *Blair* ; but on the contrary, the four Physicians positively declare, that he poisoned him ; and that therefore, when they took him again under their Care, they had to recover him from a worse State than that dying one, in which they had given him up.

Thus stood the Affair, when Aunts, Cousins, Patients, Friends, and indeed all the People of the Town, that were otherwise indifferent, began to range themselves on one Side and t’other. Disputes commenced, which were mixed with great Heat and Altercation ; Facts were contraverted, personal

Reflections were made, and in short, every Thing was brought in that could thicken the Battle. The Affair went on for a few Weeks in this divided Manner, when upon the Circumstances being a little cleared up, the current Report began to run all one Way. To undeceive the Publick, out came a *Diary*; and to contradict the *Diary*, out came a *Case*; each narrating their own State of the Affair. It was found in a little, that the *Case* had rather got the better of the *Diary*, by reason of a certain *Corps de Reserve* of Affidavits and Certificates, which was planted in the Rear, and was thought to have done some Execution. The four Gentlemen upon this, thought proper to bring a new Army into the Field, under the Name of a *Reply*, honest and fair, and full of great *Candour*, and much *Honour*, as is particularly mentioned in the Title, and often repeated in every Page of the Work, which gave Occasion to a certain Wag here to apply to this what Dr. *Swift* has somewhere said of *Dryden*, That he had often told him in Confidence, That the World would never have known he was so great a Poet, if he had not taken Care particularly to mention it in all his Prefaces and Dedications.

Before I give you any of the Merits of this last Piece, I must acquaint you with a Secret in Authorship which Dr. *Rogers* (whom every Body allow to be the Author of the *Diary*, and of the Bulk of the *Reply*) has practised in both these Pieces, with much private Satisfaction to himself, and may be noted as a useful Hint to that numerous Fraternity.

Thus, as it was proper to throw a little Incense upon his own Actions and Character, which the whimsical World would not be so ready to snuff up, if it came directly from himself, he has therefore, in the *Diary*, introduced the Person of a Bosom Friend

Friend writing to another Intimate, and having once settled these *Dramatis Personæ*, as talking familiarly to one another, he then begins, saying as much Good of himself, by way of personal Character, and as much Ill of his Adversary, as could easily be put together, and all this without the least Suspicion of Partiality ; because to be sure, every Body must suppose it was wrote by a Bystander. Thus in the Advertisement prefixed to the *Diary*, the good Friend narrates how long the Author had stood Proof against the Buffeting of his Arguments, how often he had rallied, and reinforced, and plied him anew with fresh Reasons, which at length, with the utmost Difficulty had brought him to consent to give him his Papers, by which we are surely to understand that they were delivered with great Ceremony from the right Hand to the left. Then this Friend takes it into his Head to write a *Commentary* upon the physical Notes of the Author, which occasions a new Distress, as it obliges him to get a *third* Friend to prevail upon the writing Friend himself, that he may publish his Observations on the Author. So that, by this excellent Piece of double Machinery, the Author lies secreted and snug, while the friendly Importunity of these Gentlemen is said, most unchristianly to force him to talk to the Publick against his Will. Now the Benefit of these precautionary advanced Guards is obvious, because it is expected, that the Adversary must first regularly level these two Ranks, before he can think of attacking the Author, who sits, to be sure, calm and unconcerned in the Rear of the Line.

Having once settled the introductory Ceremonials, he begins, without the least Bashfulness, to mention in every Page, the great Opinion he has of the Author's Skill, and of all his Friends, talks
much

much of his Humanity, and his peculiar Talent of Consolation, and when any Person happens to admire or applaud the Author, he takes Care, in choice Terms, to praise that Gentleman's great Candour for so doing; when his Adversary happened to recollect a Circumstance which made against the Author, tho' it stands proved by a double Evidence, he frankly calls it a Contradiction in Terms; and confutes the Evidence by quoting his Christian Faith, and that Stock of Honour upon which he had traded for so many Years. Now by the Management of these and many other excellent Devices, he has found Means to pillar and prop many a dead Weight, that would otherwise have crushed the weak Shoulders of any modern Author. I am apt to think, however, that this Invention is not altogether original and from himself, but that he took the Hint from Lord *Shaftsbury's* Advice to an Author, to divide himself into two Persons, (tho' with a different Intention) because he has sometimes, not only multiplied himself into ten Persons, but even up to 50,000; as he makes the whole accumulated Body of the City of *Cork* talk thro' his Mouth; and then he blusters and roars against his Adversary, as if it were the Voice and party-colour'd Language of a Multitude of People.

Again in the Reply, when the four Gentlemen are supposed to be jointly concerned in the Work, it is not then necessary that the four should be talking together thro' the whole Book, which might introduce an Indistinctness and Confusion of Language. It is therefore much better, for each to write a Paragraph in his Turn in the Name of the rest, tho' the Facts there mentioned may but barely be true with regard to his single Person; such as that he did not see such a Fact, or say such a thing, upon the Credit of which, he may declare bluntly and

and stoutly, by way of speaking for them all, that such and such a thing was neither seen nor said, and this without a direct Perjury, is a most excellent Expedient to serve the common Cause. The Affair may go on for a time in one of these single Persons, or may go round to each of the four, according to these critical Circumstances in which it is proper for him and for him alone, to declare negatively full bolt, against certain Facts and Evidences that are brought against them. So that by this happy Contrivance, the Weight of the Controversy, like a Musket, may be shifted from the Shoulder of one to that of another, that each may take the Trouble of loading and firing away in their Turn.

The Conveniency too of this in the way of Panegyrick is very evident, for *Bonbonous* may praise *Rogers*, and *Rogers* may praise *Bonbonous*, and they two may perfume *Flaberty* and *Connell*, by way of getting Credit in their own Account, for a Debt that must be paid in some after Page; like the two Barristers of the Temple mentioned by Mr. *Pope*, who suckled each other so plentifully, by Compliments of the first Names in the Law*.

For it is evident, that a Man should never say these Things of himself, which his Friend can say for him with so much better Propriety and Decorum, and therefore tho' the People here universally give it out, that the whole of this Reply came from the Pen of Dr. *Rogers*, yet I can never be brought to

* The Temple late two Brother Serjeants saw,
Who deem'd each other Oracles of Law;
With equal Talents, these cogenial Souls,
One lull'd th' Exchequer and one stunn'd the Rolls.
Each had a Gravity would make you split,
And shook his Head at *Murray* as a Wit.

'Twas "Sir, your Law," and "Sir, your Eloquence,"
"Yours *Cooper's* Manner, and "yours *Talbot's* Sense."

Pope's Imitation of *Horace*, 2. Ep. Book 2d. v. 127.

believe,

believe, but that his Friend *Bonbonous* help'd him out with these pretty Encomiums, with which he is in many Places so sweetly besprinkled.

The Manner too in which they would have their own Authority establish'd, as the dernier Resort both in the Way of *Evidence*, and likewise in that of *Tribunal* and *Judgment*, is very remarkable.

No Dispute of any Sort can subsist for the least Time, unless certain leading Facts are affirmed by one Side, and positively contradicted by the other. Now to find out the true State of the Case in such Circumstances, the common and indeed the only Way, is to call in such indifferent and disinterested Persons, as have had Access to know any thing of the Matter. For there are but few, whose known Coolness and Candour, have ever intitled them to appear in any other Respect, than as a kind of collateral Evidences for themselves. And as even in that Case it may be assum'd as a general Truth, that the Judgment of every Man engaged in a Contest, is to a certain Degree, impos'd upon by his Passions; it is only therefore according to the less Influence of these, that the Authority of his Judgment is at all allowed of. But when it appears, that his Passions are uncommonly irritated and impetuous, and his Resentment very sharp and keen, it is evident that the most conscientious Affirmations he can utter, will then go for nothing with the World. Because it is manifest that his Faculties, both of Memory and Understanding, being in that turbulent Agitation, are as thoroughly corrupted by the Virulence of Party Spirit, as the Body ever is, in the Case of a general Leprosy. And indeed this *Maladie du Cœur & de l'Ame*, is of such a kind, as to discover itself by *Exanthemata* and other Symptoms, as regularly appearing as these of that Distemper, or indeed of any other. For then his Works

will not only be thick cover'd over with evident Contradictions to plain Facts, but interspersed with such spiteful and purulent Reflexions against his Adversary, that they may be said most literally to resemble the morbid Spots and Scabs, which are thrown out from within, in the Case of that loathsome Disease. And we may therefore safely conclude, that the most solemn Declarations, of any Person or Persons, against whom there is this material Objection, will never in their own Case be of sufficient Credit, to satisfy the neutral Part of Mankind.

But however it does not appear, that this plain Truth was so clear to this quadruple Alliance in Physick, since their Manner of giving Evidence for themselves, runs pretty much in this diverting Strain, thro' the whole of the Reply.

We four, say they, having great Faith as Christians, and much Honour as Gentlemen, and withal having sufficient Authority so to declare, as being all of us Evidences for each other, and every Man for himself; We therefore by the Authority aforesaid, do most positively affirm, that it is a Thing absolutely impossible for us, to be at any Time, or in the least Degree, mistaken in our Practice; the Proof of which they have given us in a *Latin* Sentence, *Non licet in Medicina semel peccare*. And as one of their Number had published a Diary of Mr. *Baker's* Distemper, they would proceed by the same imperial Authority, to impose this on Dr. *Blair*, as a Standard in the Controversy; tho' it would have been better for them, first to have pretended to be divinely inspired, because by that they might have had a Precedent, to talk in the Stile of a Turk holding forth his KORAN to a Christian. For surely they look and speak as big as any Mahometan of them all, when they declare, That whatever Symptoms are not recorded in this Diary, or whatever Medicines

Medicines are not there mentioned to have had such and such Effects, we must positively and particularly deny, however supported they may be by Witnesſes, or however agreeable to other known Circumſtances; becauſe we inſiſt, that there is no other Way of determining this controverted Fact, than by our ſole Authority. And ſince Dr. *Blair* had defended and ſupported his State of the Caſe, by the Declarations and Oaths of Mr. *Baker's* whole Family, as well as all his Friends and Relations that were then about him; We, therefore, ſay they, take upon us in our Conſciences to declare, *that this is a moſt ſcandalous and illegal intrinching himſelf in the Learning of a Farrago of Affidavits and Certificates, rather than in the Opinion of the great Men of the Profeſſion,* for this very good Reaſon, becauſe the Diſpute is not as to a Matter of Opinion, but as to a Matter of Fact, where the Judgment of no Phyſicians can be deciſive, without there is laid before them, the whole Series of Facts, properly ſupported by Witneſſes of Impartiality, Honesty, and Judgment; and if the Caſe admits of it, above Fear, Dependence, or Temptation.

Now had theſe Gentlemen been educated in the Law, and employed, ſuppoſe in the Caſe of a diſputed Eſtate, by one of the Parties that claim'd it, their Language at the Bar by way of Answer to a Proof led by the oppoſite Party, would run pretty much in this Strain.

Why will you bring us in this Muſter Roll of Witneſſes, eſpecially of ſuch low Creatures, as Servants, Farmers, Stewards, or Day-Labourers, by way of entrenching yourſelves in your Rights, and making out your Titles to this Eſtate? for as this is a Sort of Proof the firſt of the Kind that ever was offer'd in ſuch a Caſe *, ſo we think it much

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* See the Preface to the Reply near the Bottom of the 6th Page.

beneath our Dignity, and therefore it is that we intend, only to bring in the Opinion of such of our Brethren of the Law, as we alone think proper to apply to: And as we claim to ourselves the sole Prerogative of laying before these Counsellors our State of the Case, and our Manner of representing the Facts, we are very confident, that they must give their Judgment in our Favours, without the least Hesitation; and to inforce the whole they might add, that were this Motion of theirs allow'd of, and once establish'd in all Courts of Justice, it would quicken the Decision of Law Suits much faster, than any Thing of the Kind that has been lately establish'd, by his Majesty of *Prussia*.

But it is Time now to shift the Scene, that I may give you a little more in Detail, the principal Points in Dispute, and withal that Kind of Evidence that is brought by each Party, to support their seperate Assertions.

The first material Article that is contraverted, is, Whether this Night of the 11th of *July*, which is called the 14th Night of Mr. *Baker's* Illness, when Dr. *Blair* was called in, was look'd upon, and judged by the other four Physicians, really, truly, and *bona fide*, to be a *Critical Night* with regard to Mr. *Baker's* Distemper: By which it must be understood, that these four Gentlemen, or at least the Majority of them, entertained certain Hopes and Expectations, from some Symptoms or Reasons best known to themselves, that the Distemper would take a favourable Turn that Night, and therefore till that was over, they conceived that Mr. *Baker* had still a good Chance for his Life. Now this Story of the Crisis is particularly asserted, and often repeated in the *Diary*, in their *Reply*, and was the only plausible Thing they had to say, by way of Complaint against Dr. *Blair*, in their Letters both

to Dr. *Mead* and Dr. *Frewin* ; for this last Gentleman particularly mentions it in his Answer to Dr. *Rogers*. “ I must therefore, declare, says he, that “ I think it a Point agreed on by the best Practitioners and Writers, that at a Time when a “ Crisis is at hand, (which you say the *Gentlemen* “ expected the fourteenth Night,) Nature should “ not be interrupted by Bleeding, or any other “ Evacuation.” You will easily observe then, that this Affirmation of a critical Night, is the Corner-Stone of their Story, upon the Truth or Falshood of which, the whole Building they have raised upon it, must stand or fall to Shivers.

But what shall we think of this bold Assertion of theirs, in which their Faith, and their Honour, and their Conscience, are so much concerned, if it appears from an Evidence, which they have never as yet in all their Defences dared to contradict ; which is, that three of them positively, particularly, nay, with a remarkable Solemnity, declared that Night to all Mr. *Baker*’s Friends, *that their Patient Mr. Baker was a dying Man, and could not survive.* That this Night then, was a critical Night, appears very evidently, not to have been the Opinion of either Dr. *Connell*, Dr. *Flaberty*, or Dr. *Bonbonous* ; but Dr. *Rogers* being since hard push’d as to his critical Night, has thought proper to lay aside the plural Number, and talks of it only as his own private Opinion ; tho’ in his Letter to Dr. *Frewin*, it appears that he told him, without the least Scruple, “ that it was the Opinion of all the four Gentlemen of so good a Character, that this Night was a critical Night ;” now to pull him out of this Difficulty, will require only a new Exertion of his Faith as a Christian, and his Honour as a Gentleman, which he uses like two Pullies in a Piece of Machinery, for the raising every Weight that lies upon him, tho’

he has not consider'd that these excellent Goods of his, if not used with Discretion, are liable to go to pieces by being overloaded. But again I must inform you, that there are Presumptions, and those not one or two but several, which make it out to me very evident, *that it does not appear, that even Dr. Rogers himself considered that Night as a critical Night* notwithstanding all he has since said to the contrary. For first, tho he has been often called upon, he has not thought it proper to shew that he ever said that Evening to Physician, Friend, or Servant, that, that Night would be a critical Night. For his saying, *ex post facto*, that he then thought so, is evidence to nobody; because had he thought so, it was highly incumbent upon him to have informed the Physicians of it, as well as comforted the Family with that remarkable Circumstance, and as he did neither of these two Things that Night, it is to me sufficient Proof, that he did not think there was a Crisis approaching.

Again, Mr. *Newcomen* has declared in his Certificate, what is indeed well known to the Family, That the other three Physicians having come to Mr. *Baker's* Lodging some Time before Dr. *Rogers*, and being asked, What they thought of Mr. *Baker*? refus'd giving their Opinion till Dr. *Rogers* came, and after being in Consultation with Dr. *Rogers*, (for whose Judgment, it is sufficiently known, they had the greatest Deference) they then came down, and told the Family, with the utmost Concern, *that poor Mr. Baker had been given over, and that they did not expect he would survive that Night*; besides, when he himself came down, and was asked his Opinion, as he owns in his *Diary*, by a Crowd of People, he refused giving any Answer, because, as he there mentions, he had comforted the Family
above

above by telling them, *That one Mr. Lennox had lain in that House, in that Room, and in that Bed, and had recovered*: For it was surely a great Consolation to the Friends of a Man in a desperate Fever, to tell them, that a Person in an Ague, a Palsie, a Consumption, or even a Fever of that, or any other kind, had recovered once upon the same Spot of Ground. But after this obstinate Silence of his, he says, he whispered to himself as he went into his Chair, "*That he hoped something would turn out soon in Mr. Baker's Favour, otherwise it was likely Things would go hard with him,*" which, in no Sense can be construed as an Expectation of a Crisis, but only as it literally is, a faint Hope ushering in a desperate Fear. — But there is, besides this, a stronger Proof from Mr. *Peter Coffart*, who is Brother to Mrs. *Baker*, and declares in his Certificate, that Dr. *Bonbonous* (who came to him to desire a Clergyman should be sent for to prepare Mrs. *Baker* for her Husband's Death) being ask'd the next Morning, in his Presence, in Mr. *Baker's* Dining-room, if it was of himself only that he desired the Rev. Mr. *Madras*, or any other Person should be sent for to prepare his Sister? the said Dr. *Bonbonous* answered, "*That it was not of himself he did so, but that it was the Opinion of all his Physicians that he could not survive, so they deputed him, as being best known in the Family, to acquaint them with his Condition, and that they thought it proper Mrs. Baker should be prepared to receive that melancholy News.*" These Words of Mr. *Coffart's* Certificate, have, I think, very clearly settled that material Point of the critical Night, which comes out to be only an imaginary Assumptioun of Dr. *Rogers* and the other three Gentlemen, and that they

they only introduced it afterwards to piece and patch up their State of the Case *.

I cannot leave this Article without acquainting you of the Way, in which, these four Gentlemen

* I fancy Dr. Rogers must have had in his Eye, all this Time, the Death of the Patient as the grand Crisis of the Disease, since *Hippocrates*, in several Places, has particularly mentioned it under that Character; for in his first Book, τῶν ἐπιδημιῶν, he calls the Crisis of a Distemper, *an Advance either to Life or Death, or an Inclination either to be better or worse*, ἐπὶ σωτηρίῃ ἢ ὀλεθρῷ, ἢ ῥοπήν ἐπὶ τὸ ἀμεινὸν ἢ τὸ χεῖρον. So this is a *salvo* for the Doctor's puzzling Assertion. Nay, we shall give him another Authority from *Hippocrates*, still stronger than the last, in his Piece, περὶ παθῶν, *To come to a Crisis in a Distemper*, says he, *is when the Sick either grow better or grow worse, or fall into another Distemper, or expire*, ἀρῖσθαι ἔσσι ἐν τοῖσι νόσοισιν, ὅταν αἱ νόσοι, ἢ ἀυξοῦνται, ἢ μαραινόσιν, ἢ μελαπτόσιν εἰς ἕτερον νόσημα ἢ τελευτῶσιν; so that if Mr. Baker had died, the learned Doctor would no doubt have cried out, "Behold the Crisis is come to pass, " which both I, and *Hippocrates* apprehended and foretold."

The Story of critical Days, was common among the ancient Physicians, who talk of different *Suites* of them, sometimes they mention one, of the 7th, the 14th, 20th, 27th, 34th, 40th, 60th, 80th, 100th, 120th, &c. Another Series they have, of the 3d, 5th, 9th, 11th, and so on; and sometimes the 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, &c. all of which may be seen more at large, in *Galen's Account of Critical Days*; so that there is not a Day to be mentioned, for which a Physician may not get an Authority, to help him out with a critical Day. But the expecting the Regularity of these critical Days, in Fevers, especially in our northern Climates, has been long laughed at, and given up by all the practical Physicians. Nay, the knowing the Approach of a Crisis by Symptoms, is so difficult, that *Boerhaave* talking of them in his *Institutes*, Numb. 934, and 935, declares, *That an ignorant Distinction of them is the fullest of Mischief and Danger, for they are often confounded with the Symptoms, that arise from the Cause of the Disease, from the Disease itself, and from the crude Matter of the Disease, from whence* (concludes he) *for the most part there follows a most ill-omen'd and unhappy Practice of Physick*; His Words are, having just mentioned the Symptomata Critica.—Horum distinctio difficilis, Ignoratio damni, & periculi, plenissima, sæpius enim confunduntur cum symptomatibus a causa morbi, morbo, vel cruda materie morbi, ortis, unde plerumque sequitur, insuavisissima medendi methodus.

have

have endeavoured to shelter themselves from these material Witnesses, for as they knew they were Men of Character, they could not say, they were brib'd or overaw'd, but forsooth, they insinuate, that these Gentlemen signed their Certificates out of Compassion to Dr. *Blair*, and so pass them over. Now to assert, that a Man would perjure himself out of Pity, is an Aspersion ridiculous and inconsistent in the very Terms of it; but to say the Truth, these four Gentlemen were sensible, that there was a *Rattenness* and a *deep Sore* in this Part of their Story; and therefore thought it best to skin it over in that manner, as the readiest Way of covering it up from the publick Eye.

The second Point is, whether Mr. *Baker* was really better the next morning after Dr. *Blair* had prescribed for him?

This is a Fact so well known to the whole Family, that it is particularly mentioned by all of them in their Certificates; nay, there are two People who were present when Doctors *Connell* and *Bonbonous* came in, and who declare, that these two Physicians were so sensible of Mr. *Baker's* being better, that Dr. *Bonbonous* expressed his Uneasiness at the Applause Dr. *Blair* would have, in case of Mr. *Baker's* Recovery, to which Dr. *Connell* answered, that he did not care if it was an *Old Kercher Woman*, so his Friend Mr. *Baker* recovered; and these are Particulars which neither Doctors *Connell* nor *Bonbonous* have contradicted in their Reply. Dr. *Rogers* however pretends, that Mr. *Baker* only barely struggled through a bad Night, nay, in his *Diary*, he says roundly, that *he passed that Night worse than any before*, when the whole Family testify the contrary, by a Circumstance of which they were all Judges, which was, his being delirious the Night before, and the next Morning so sensible, that he

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answered every Question that was put to him very pertinently ; nay, Mrs. *Perdriau* who was up with him all that Night, not only declares, that he was better in all his Complaints, but that Dr. *Connell* when he came that Morning, acknowledged it to her without the least Scruple. I must here acquaint you that in the Case of this Lady, the four Physicians have given an excellent Specimen of their Arts upon Witnesses ; for as she happens to be in a Way of Life that is in some Dependence on the Publick, Dr. *Bonbonous* in particular, took care to acquaint her, in very high Terms, that she was at the Mercy of him and some of his Friends, who would desert her House if she did not retract her Certificate, which Threatning was uttered in the Presence of Mr. *Baker* the Patient so often mentioned, the Truth of which he is ready to declare *to all whom it may concern*. Her Father and Brother have, indeed, published a Declaration, which means no more, than that Dr. *Bonbonous* did neither threaten to kill her nor poison her, nay, the Father says more, *viz.* “ *That Dr. Bonbonous importunately applied to him in favour of his said Daughter, and would not quit him until he had extorted a Promise from him, that he would not shew to his said Daughter any Marks of his Displeasure for her acting so impudently.*” This last Paragraph shews, stronger than any Thing, the Bitterness with which Dr. *Bonbonous* had spoke of it, both to the Daughter and Father before her signing the Retraction, with which, it seems, he was a little pacified ; and therefore the whole of this Affair is a most authentick Evidence against themselves. However, by these Means they prevailed upon the poor Woman to sign a Paper, which shews, in every Line of it, the greatest Distraction of Mind, as it runs pretty much in this odd Manner, “ That being under great
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Terrors and Apprehensions of what would happen to her from signing her Certificate to Dr. *Blair*, she now begs the World to believe she had Eyes and Ears, but could neither see nor hear; and *that every Circumstance, nay, every Expression that she had used in her Certificate, and to which she was supposed to have assented to, must be disowned, revoked, and conceived to be void and null.*" I think the publishing this Paper shows the greatest Eminence of Wisdom in four such learned Heads, who could conceive, that the Tendency of it could in the least assist their tottering Cause, when their Adversary could not have wished for any other Transaction, or any other Paper which could strengthen or brighten up his Cause half so much. Nay, this Affair is the strongest Proof that could be given of their most indefatigable Labour, to influence all those that lie within the Circle of their Reach, and is, to be sure, the best Commentary that could be given on the Behaviour of two poor illiterate Women, who were Nurse-tenders, and who in their Certificates have shuffled and shifted backwards and forwards, till at length they have been brought upon Oath to contradict the plain Evidence of Mr. *Baker's* whole Family and Friends, as if any indifferent Person could ever conceive, that the Interest and Concern of every Friend, Relation and Servant, did not render them more faithful Registers of every Turn of Mr. *Baker's* Distemper than those ignorant Creatures, who, to be sure, both apprehended and knew that their daily Bread was, in a great measure, at the Mercy of these four Physicians. The Character of one of the Nurse-tenders stands tainted in a former Affair, and such a Practice, I find, has not been unusual here among Physicians of the first *Pas*, as it is said a Discovery was made of some tampering of the like kind that was practised upon

one *Joan Dyer*, who being to be hanged for some other Crime, declared at her Execution her having given a false Evidence in a physical Affair, as she said, she could not depart in Peace, till she had cleared her Conscience of that Piece of Iniquity.

But before I leave this Point of *Mr. Baker's* being better next Morning, I must mention a Circumstance to you from the *Diary*, which will throw some more Light upon it, though it may now seem to need but little. They there declare, or *Dr. Rogers* declares for them, which is the same thing, “*That it was more wondered at by some, how, under such calamitous Circumstances as they gave out, they four were prevailed upon to recontinue their Care of Mr. Baker.*” Observe, a Moment, the Difficulty in which they saw themselves involved: *Mr. Baker* was given over by them the Night before, is judged by them to be worse next Day, and yet they were prevailed upon, *then*, to recontinue their Care. It is no Wonder, that they are a little puzzled to reconcile these Particulars; and therefore, in the Name of *Every Body*, they have put down a Couple of Reasons, by way of strong Motives, to reconcile this Appearance of Inconsistency in their Behaviour; and they have placed them too, in the manner of Alternatives, that in case one of them is not thought powerful enough, the other may be supposed to help it out. For it is there mentioned, that after *Every Body* had wondred a little at their Reassumption of their Patient, who, by their Account of him, was then posting to Death, yet *Every Body* at the same Time did them Justice, so far as to say, “*It must be the Effect of an unbounded Benevolence to Mankind,*” or, “*Of some extraordinary Friendship, and Affection, for that poor distressed Gentleman.*” You’ll take Notice, that every Word in these two Reasons, has the Air of something

hing superabundant, supernatural, and indeed miraculous, as their Benevolence first flashes out *wide* and *broad* upon the universal Community of Mankind, and then in an Instant *contracts* itself, as by Focus to a Speck, making the large Circumference of their Affection for the whole Species, dart upon the single Person of a *poor distressed Gentleman*. But we must here make the old Observation, that whenever a Man dares not tell the true Motive of his Conduct, he commonly betrays himself, by giving something that is incredibly grand and magnificent; for a very plain Reason, because when one is obliged to invent, why mayn't he give us the best Crop of his Fancy rather than any other. Thus they go on, however, frankly to declare, that notwithstanding their supernatural Emanations of Affection, they found themselves not a little puzzled to determine, whether they should proceed to cure, or not to cure Mr. *Baker*, because as they are pleas'd to express it, "*they were very sensible of the inextricable Dilemma*" of bad Consequences either way, and (having, as it would appear, consulted *Demoivre* upon Chances, or some other good Author upon the Art of Betting) declared, that though they knew the Advantage of the Lay was one way, yet they were obliged to take the losing Side for themselves; and this I assure you is literally the Substance of a Paragraph, which is to be found in the 22d Page of their *Diary*. For the Conclusion, however, of this intricate Soliloquy, they have quoted *Virgil's* famous Distich of *Sic vos non vobis*, &c. which they illustrate and improve upon by their Afterbehaviour, which is the plain, though voluminous Commentary upon every Man's Writings, since they endeavoured to make it appear, that they not only understood, but could paraphrase upon the Original; for I don't aggravate Matters in the

the least, when I tell you, that they made a Resolution, not only to take Possession of the *Honey*, but to smoak out the *Bees*; and that they were eagerly inclined to have executed this last Particular, I shall show you by-and-by, in a Couple of remarkable Instances.

The 3^d Particular in Dispute is more properly physical, than any of the preceding. For it concerns three Things that were order'd by Dr. *Blair*, viz. *Whether* weak Water Sack Whey, or strong pure *Port* Whey, ought to have been given Mr. *Baker*? *Whether* bleeding him at all, was not improper, on Account of its being a critical Night? and the third is, *Whether* the *Tinctura Antiphtysica*, which was given him among other Things in a Julap, was not a poisonous Ingredient, which had never been prescribed by any Physician?

At the Beginning of the Dispute, the first Thing objected to Dr. *Blair*, was his having changed Mr. *Baker's* Drink, from the Whey which was made with pure unmix'd red *Port* Wine, to a weak Whey made of Sack and Water. To which he gave this Answer, That as he found Mr. *Baker delirious*, (which is attested by the Family, and acknowledged by the Physicians themselves) it was wrong to continue that strong intoxicating Whey, and therefore proper to give him something that was less hurtful to his Head. Now Dr. *Rogers* had a private Reason personally to resent this Alteration, because, on his being called in upon the other three, it was by his peculiar Direction, that Mr. *Baker's* Drink was changed from Sack Whey to that made with pure *Port*. For he thought he could stop the Patient's Lax by its Astringency, without attending to the Danger of the Delirium, which he was thus increasing by every Draught. It grieved him therefore to the Heart, to think that Dr. *Blair* had laid
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aside the principal Thing he had prescribed after his joining his three Brethren ; in order therefore to justify himself, he threatens in his *Diary*, and talks indeed, as if he was just proceeding to prove the Paradox, “ *That pure Port Whey was less fiery and “ intoxicating, than Water Sack Whey.*” But while you are expecting the Detail of the Proof, he wheels, and makes a sudden Ascent from the Nature of Wheys, to that of Wines ; of which he talks very systematically, under the two States, of *Purity* and *Impurity*. In the impure State, he says, red *Port* Wine is only primed with Brandy, whereas *Canary* which is first, according to him, white *Lisbon*, has a full Charge of Brandy poured upon it, with some sweetning Additions. But in the Account of the genuine State of both the Wines, he talks of the active Salts, and the essential Oils, with a large Portion of solar Rays, as being the Stamina of *Canary* Wine, and *e contra* of the vast Number of watry Particles, which make up the *Port* Wine ; which imaginary Theory, is the more ridiculous, as it runs quite loose of the Question ; for it is evident, that the best chymical Account that can be given of the two Wines, could never make it appear, that pure original *Port* Whey without Water, is a Drink more cool and diluting than *Canary* Whey when it is made with a large Quantity of Water. But as Dr. *Rogers* was resolved to push at this at any Rate, he condemns it, first as a cool slippery Drink in one Place, and then, by an unlucky Oversight, attacks it as hot and intoxicating in another. Which Inconsistency had laid him open to a Joke of Dr. *Blair*, who observes in his *Case*, that the other learned Doctor in the true Spirit of a controversial Writer, was equally prepared to prove either Side of the Question, by way of shewing the vast Reach of his Faculties, and the

different Ways he could shift the Powers of his Understanding. “ *For if he affirms Port Wine to be strong, Dr. Rogers affirms it to be weak ; and if he affirms it to be weak, Dr. Rogers will prove it to be strong.*” To which Dr. Rogers, in his Reply, puts down this most excellent Answer, “ *That he can see no Inconsistency in all this ; for, continues he, may not Port Whey be said to be strong in respect of Sack Water Whey, and weak in respect of pure Canary Whey.*” Now this would have been very good Reasoning in Dr. Rogers, if he could have shewn, that Dr. Blair had prescribed these two different Kinds of Canary Wheys, or even any pure Canary Whey at all ; but most unluckily the Proof was here wickedly against him, and therefore he wisely slips it over with the dignify’d and kingly Observation, “ *That it was a Story so trifling, that a Man of Sense ought to despise it, and not attempt to answer it* *.” Notwithstanding all this, Dr. Rogers, being greatly unwilling to give up this Article, attempts another Defence of his pure Port Whey, by saying, that Mr. Baker took great Quantities of it afterwards, without any bad Consequences ; but he was not candid enough, either in his *Diary* or *Reply*, to acknowledge what he ought to have done, that this last Port Whey was most plentifully mix’d with Water, which is a Circumstance that shows evidently, how sensible they all were, of their former Mistake in giving Mr. Baker the pure Port Whey. Tho’ I cannot here help observing to you, that Dr. Rogers, scarce ever mentions the last pure Port Whey, without giving it the emphatical Epithet, *of the Good Comfortable Whey* ; declaring by this, that as a sworn Enemy, he had only consented with Reluctance, to these cooling Mixtures, that tend to bring down the genuine and uncorrupted Port, to that

* See the Reply, p. 51.

that State of iniquitous Impurity, which in his *Diary*, he had so particularly condemn'd.

The next Thing objected against Dr. *Blair*, was his having ordered Mr. *Baker* to be bled at one of the frontal Arteries.

These Gentlemen have built this, as well as some of their other Cavillings, upon their ideal Assertion of a critical Night, when all Evacuations are judged improper. But I believe I have amply made it out to you, that what they have since pretended to assert, of their having expected a Crisis that Night, is quite imaginary, as there is not the least Spark of Evidence, to show, that any of them, much less all of them, thought so; nay positive and uncontradicted Evidence, that three of them thought the contrary, and the strongest Presumptions that could be given, that Dr. *Rogers* was likewise of that Opinion.

Dr. *Rogers* therefore being fully sensible, that his Story of a Crisis could never be made appear, has in his *Reply*, retreated backwards to a Point, which he thought more tenable than that of the Crisis, in which he had been deserted by his Brethren. This new Station of Defence, then, lies in an Assertion, *that there is no such Thing as any Branch of the internal carotid Artery, coming out of the Skull over the Eye*, nay farther, *that there is no Foramen to allow it to come out*. Then for the Proof of this, as he does not pretend of himself to know any Thing of the Matter, and being much lost in Doubts, he makes a Round of consulting some *anatomical Writers*, to guess at it by their Report: Of whom he has given as indistinct, and as unsatisfactory an Account, as if he had been quoting the different Relations of the first Voyages, to a newly discover'd Continent; such as that some had seen certain peculiar Trees in the Country, but as another Traveller had not men-

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tioned these, he concludes it impossible there can be any such ; “because surely, says he, this Person “ would have taken Notice of them, (they being so “ very singular) had there been any of that Kind.” In this Manner, he makes Extracts of a see-saw Reading, from four great Anatomists. He begins with *Eustachius*, who, according to him, mentions nothing of this Ramification of the Carotid, therefore there can’t be any there. He makes *Winslow* talk but very little about them. He makes *Monro* allow that there is an Artery comes out of that Foramen or Hole above the Eye, for which Reason he ought to have commenced a Battle between *Eustachius* and *Monro*, as he has quoted them on opposite Sides. But to conclude the Matter he brings in *Albinus*, whom he calls the exquisite Searcher into the human Body, describing *this Hole to be a very uncertain Hole, for commonly it is a small Hole, and an oblong Hole, then sometimes there are two Holes, sometimes there are three Holes, and sometimes there is but half a Hole ; often there is only a slight Mark like the Track or Impression of a Hole, and in short that now and then there is no Hole at all.* This is the accurate Manner in which Dr. Rogers (who is the *Mouth*, or the *Tongue*, or the *Pen*, or whatever you please to call him, of this Council of four) has been pleased to collect and set forth the Opinion of anatomical Writers, concerning these Arteries and Foramina ; in which it would appear that his own proper Knowledge could afford him no better Account of them ; whereas we find that Dr. *Blair* had caused open these Arteries with Success, in several Persons at *Kingsale*, in the Circumstances of a Fever, which then raged in that Town. Indeed these four Gentlemen seem to talk about these Arteries, as one would speculate with Diffidence, upon the searching for a Mine under Ground, when they had only

only some distant Presumptions, that there were any such, below that particular Spot. *For, say they, considering the Smallness of these Vessels, the Uncertainty whether we meet with them or not; or if we do, whether we open the Branches of the internal or external Carotid, therefore little Relief can be expected in any inflammatory Case.* Now this is their own Language, declaring their own Ignorance of the Situation of these Arteries, and confessing for themselves, that were such an Operation ever thought necessary, they would be obliged to direct the Surgeon to put in his Lancet at a Venture.

But, allowing, say they, that we are beat from this Post, and *that out of the frontal Vessels may be drawn an Ounce and a half, in the Space of six Minutes; which, they say, is a good Allowance, having known less.* Now this last Sentence of theirs is an unlucky Oversight; for by saying *that they had known less than an Ounce and a half drawn in the Space of six Minutes,* is giving up what they had been disputing for two or three Pages, since the very Words import, that it consisted with their Knowledge, and they had seen, these very frontal Arteries *open'd*, and that the opening these had been *thought good* for some Distemper or other, neither of which they were pleased to specify. Nevertheless, they proceed to a Calculation of how much greater Quantities of Blood may be drawn, either from the Temporal Artery, or the Jugular Vein, than from these Vessels in the Forehead; but all this lies quite out of the Question, as it was not required to draw from the Patient, the greatest possible Quantity of Blood in the least possible Time, which is the Supposition they go upon; but the opening these Arteries above the Eye, was thought by Dr. Blair, more proper for relieving the Inflammation of the Brain, than by any of the other two.

The Ignorance of these Gentlemen, in an Age so enlightened as this is, when Anatomy is so well known, is really lamentable ; and their attacking Dr. *Blair* from Arguments of their own Want of Knowledge in that Branch of Physick, is bringing us back to these Monkish Days of Barbarity, when *Galileo* was persecuted for asserting the Planetary System. Nay, every Child is a Judge of the Dispute, and may confute them; by putting his Finger above his Eye, where he may feel the Pulse of the Artery very distinctly. But I shall discuss to you their stragling Quotations a little more anatomically, from the very *Passages* they have adduced themselves. They pretend then, that *Winslow* says little about that Branch of the internal Carotid ; to confirm which, observe their Art, they found he talk'd of it in his Anatomy, in the 74th Numb. upon the Arteries, they extract the first Part of a Sentence there ; but finding the latter Part of it proved the very Point in Dispute against themselves, they therefore carefully left it out, and that you might not trace them, they did not chuse to mark the Place from whence they took it, in the Margin : But the falsifying of this Passage, was a miserable Device, practised upon an Author who is in every Body's Hands. For *Winslow's* Words are, “ As the Internal Carotid leaves the Bony Canal, to enter the Cranium, it sends off a Branch thro' the Sphenoidal Fissure to the Orbit, and Eye, and soon afterwards another thro' the Foramen Opticum, by which it communicates with the External Carotid *.” This Communication is the very Thing in Dispute, and these Gentlemen, out of their great Wisdom, brought this Passage to prove there was none there ; which is an excellent Evidence,

* See *Winslow's Anatomy*, 4to. Lond. 1733. Of the Arteries, N^o 74.

Evidence, both of their Fairness, and their Modesty. They have quoted *Monro* too, as unfairly as they do *Winslow*; pretending that he describes several Foramina in the Superciliary Ridges, whereas he only describes one Hole in each Superciliary Ridge; they make him say again, *thro' one of which a small Artery with a Nerve passes*, making it appear, as if he meant there were a Number of Holes there, and that sometimes this Artery passed thro' one, and sometimes thro' another; whereas his plain Words are, *Thro' this Hole a Twig of the Ophthalmick Branch of the fifth Pair of Nerves passes out of the Orbit with a small Artery from the Carotid, to be distributed to the Teguments and Muscles of the Forehead* *. His calling the Artery a Branch of the Carotid, was sufficiently clear to every one who has the smallest Acquaintance with Anatomy, because they know that the Branches of the External Carotid have particular Names, as *Maxillary, Angular, Temporal, Occipital, &c.* What he mentions as to the Danger of the transverse Incision, is evidently by Way of Caution only against doing it too near the Hole or Notch, on Account of the shrinking of the Artery, whereas the opening it a little above was never known to be attended with any Danger; and what Mr. *Monro* further adds, with regard to the uncertain State of these Holes, is foreign to the Purpose; because the Artery and Nerve are known always to be there, whether there is a Hole, Notch, or even without a Vestige, and Dr. *Blair* recommended no Operation upon a Hole, but upon the Vessels above the Eye, which are as regularly there as the Eye itself; and what they mention therefore from *Albinus* is only puzzling themselves about the Hole, while they are mangling good *Latin* by a miserable Translation; tho' they have allowed that *Albinus* affirms, that the Use of the Hole is

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* See *Monro's Osteology*, 8vo. Edin. 1741. pag. 80.

to permit the little Nerves and Vessels, to creep safely out of the *Orbit* to the Forehead.

It appears then, that these three anatomical Writers, quoted by themselves, mention these Vessels passing from the Orbit to the Forehead, which clears the Truth against themselves, even by their own Quotations.—Their saying that little Relief can be expected from that Operation in an inflammatory Case, contradicts their other Observation, “ That it produces great Mischief, and certain Danger in a languid Circulation ;” for if it is *so important* in one Case, it can’t be *so trifling* in the other. Their Endeavour to shew how much better it is to open the Jugular Vein than this Carotid Artery, in order to remove Obstructions in this Artery, is contrary to known Fact ; for first, when a Patient it let Blood in the Jugular Vein, the Surgeon, previous to any Thing else, lays a Compression upon the Neck to make the Vein swell ; and after the Vein is opened, he continues that Compression that the Blood may come out ; for the Motion of the Blood towards the Heart, in the Jugular, is so free, that generally upon removing the Ligature or Compression, the open’d Vein ceases to bleed. Is it not plain then, that the Resistance which the Blood moving in its Capillaries, met with from that moving in its Trunk, is by this Operation *increased* and therefore *not taken off* ? —Again, they must allow, (for tho’ they may not know it themselves, yet they will find it in *Winflow* *) that the External and Internal Jugulars, communicate largely above the Place of Bleeding in the Neck ; consequently, whatever Effect Bleeding has upon one, it will nearly have the same Effect on the other, and therefore bleeding in the Jugular, instead of *diminishing* the Velocity of the Blood in the
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* See Winflow, of Veins. N^o 72, 74, 79, 96.

Internal Carotid, and *taking off* from the *Pressure* which they pretend, will on the contrary immediately *add* to both.

But as to the general Expediency of bleeding a Patient in the Head, which is properly the Point disputed, it appears plainly, both from Dr. *Mead's* and Dr. *Frewin's* Letters to Dr. *Rogers*, that they both, allow of it and think it expedient, in the Cases of Fevers attended with an Inflammation of the Brain, when there are no Symptoms of a Crisis.

As to the Bleeding in the frontal Vessels, says Dr. *Mead*, *I should think it was too bold a Practice in so great Weakness, and so late in the Disease, unless the Pulse was uncommonly hard and strong, and attended with an Inflammation of the Brain, or some Symptom of that Kind.*

And says Dr. *Frewin* *When Fevers run to a great Length, and there is no Sign of an approaching Crisis, it is not unusual with Physicians in England, to direct Bleeding in the Temporal Artery, or at the Saphena Vein, later than the fourteenth Day, when the Quickness and Strength of the Pulse, and other Symptoms require that Evacuation.*

Now as both these are directed to the Person they confute, and being published by him, must be allowed to be genuine Proofs, *uti adducta ex Castris Inimicorum*, as coming from the Quarters of the Foe, and therefore not under the least Objection of Partiality to Dr. *Blair*.

The last Particular objected to Dr. *Blair*, was his prescribing for Mr. *Baker* a Julap, in which was mix'd a certain Quantity of the *Tinctura Antiphtysica*. Much has been said on this Part of the Dispute, and indeed the grand Appeal to Dr. *Mead* from both Sides, was to desire him to determine and declare, what he judged to be the Qualities and Effects of this Tincture.

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It is remarkable, that Dr. Rogers has really had no less than three successive Opinions, as to the Nature of this Medicine in the Course of the Dispute, as People of weak Eyes will only allow the Light to be increased upon them, at certain regular Intervals of Time. For in the Beginning, he asserted positively and without Exception, *that this Tincture was poisonous*, which though he has since thought it prudent to disavow, yet his Letter to Dr. Mead is a standing Testimony, that he was then of that Opinion, since Dr. Mead mentions that Circumstance particularly to Dr. Blair. “ *When Dr. Rogers, says he, wrote to me by way of Appeal to my Judgment, I plainly told him, that though I could not be a Judge of all the Circumstances of Mr. Baker’s Case, yet as to the Tinctura Antiphthysica, to which he made his main Objection, as unsafe and a kind of Poison, it was a Medicine which I had made use of with great Success for these fifty Years.*” But I think the thing is very clear from his own Words, for unless he intended to prove, that this Tincture was a Poison, with what other Design could it be that he laboured so much to prove *the Sugar of Lead* a Poison, as he has made a long Note about it in his *Diary*, for it is too glaring to be evaded, that the only Conclusion from his Premises must be, that he then judged that Tincture to be poisonous. Nay, in another Place of his *Diary*, conceiving he had *Boerhaave* walking Hand in Hand with him, he goes boldly on *condemning and damning* this Tincture, first in the Lump, and then he cuts it up, as he thinks, piece Meal, and Limb by Limb, mentioning with great Bitterness *the Sugar of Lead digested in the rectified Spirit of Wine*, and then the *green Vitriol in the same Digestion*, which he had declared before to be *no wholesomer* than the other, and therefore as strong a Poison, upon which he draws this

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Conclusion, "*both making, says he, with this fiery Spirit the antiphtysick Tincture,*" as if he had happily detected the Combination and Conspiracy of two Poisons together, ranker and keener, than any single Poison by itself.

This then was certainly his first Opinion, before he received Dr. Mead's Letter, which undeceived him a little in his Mistake. "*For I wondered, says Dr. Mead, that he (meaning Dr. Rogers) should be a Stranger to this Tincture, having been first invented by the famous Etmuller, and recommended by our great Mr. Boyle, and published in almost all the foreign Pharmacopeias, as well as our late London one.*" Dr. Rogers therefore, finding this Blunder, thought it proper upon this, to shift his Ground, and admitted in his Reply, that this Tincture was good for the few Diseases which Dr. Mead had told him of, and now indeed he talks *with Amazement and Abhorrence*, that his former Opinion should be ascribed to him, which he endeavours to disavow at the Expence, and with the Execrations of his *Faith* and his *Honour*, though the Thing is too well fixed upon him, to allow him to lanch it off in this his usual manner. However, he still denies, that the Tincture could be proper in the Case of the Lax which attended Mr. Baker in his Fever, which he calls even with Boldness *an improper and an unjustifiable Practice*, but unfortunately for him he was not aware, and did not suspect, that Dr. Mead was then ready to declare, that the Case in which he chiefly uses the Tincture, are slow Hectic Fevers *particularly when attended with a Looseness*. This is the very Symptom for which Dr. Blair gave it to Mr. Baker, and this is the very Symptom for which Dr. Mead has given it with Success for fifty Years, and therefore, if these Gentlemen won't submit to Dr. Blair's Reasons, they must, at least, allow

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low of the Judgment of Dr. *Mead*, to whom they have dedicated their *Reply*, and therein declared, *that whatever Sentence be pass'd would be submitted to as the dernier Resort, and without Appeal.*

I must now observe to you, that Dr. *Rogers* who first insisted this Tincture was a Poison, and had never been given by either Dr. *Mead*, Dr. *Friend*, or himself, whenever he receiv'd Dr. *Mead*'s Letter, changed his Note and pretended *that he himself had given it in a few Distempers, but never in the Case of a Lax.* However, since this last Letter of Dr. *Mead*'s, he has so far advanced in his Opinion of the Goodness of this Medicine, that I am told there are now Receipts of his in the *Apothecary's Shops*, in which he has prescribed in Fevers attended with a Lax, a much greater Quantity of this Tincture than Dr. *Blair* had done in the desperate Case of Mr. *Baker*.

You must have, no doubt, noticed, that I have purposely omitted mentioning Drs. *Connell*, *Flaberty*, or *Bonbonous* in the interesting Points of the Dispute. Because, though their Names appear in the Beginning of the *Reply*, yet I think it is evident to every Body, that they are not properly to be considered as Principals in the Affair, but only as the *turba sequentium*, *l'Equipage de son Excellence*, a Kind of Train that attend the Motions and Resolutions of their Captain General, who

Stop as he turns, and as he circles wheel.

And indeed it is to me astonishing, that these three Gentlemen should have found themselves at all concerned in the Dispute, as they can never deny with regard to their own Judgment, these material Questions, which are contraverted between Dr. *Rogers* and Dr. *Blair*. For they can never disavow
 3 that

that Mr. Baker was thought by them *to be dying that Night* when Dr. Blair was called in, they cannot deny, that both Doctors Bonbonous and Connell declared him *better on the Tuesday Morning*; and as to their Opinion of the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*, only one of the three at the Conference pretended to know any Thing about it, and that he made appear, only by saying, that it was like a *Chip in Porridge*, a Thing of no Consequence either one way or another. Notwithstanding of which, Dr. Rogers in his Letter to Dr. Mead and Dr. Frewin, tells them both very modestly, “ That they four Physicians being *all of good Character*, had attended Mr. Baker, “ that they had put him under a Regimen, and given “ him such Medicines, by the Help of which he “ was fast recovering, and that in particular, they “ had *all of them* entertained good Hopes of him “ the Night of the 11th of July, being the 14th “ Night of his Illness, that *they all* conceived “ this 14th Night to be a *critical Night*, that the “ Morning after Dr. Blair had been with him, “ they were *all of them*, without Exception, of Opinion, that he was worse than the Night before, “ and in short, that *all of them* condemned the “ Bleeding, and the Tincture which had been ordered by Dr. Blair.” Now the direct Contrary of the first three Particulars stands recorded against them by certain creditable Witnesses, and as to their Opinion of the Bleeding and the Julap, they, poor Souls, never offered to open their Mouths, or venture a Judgment about them,, till Dr. Rogers met them on the *Tuesday Evening*, and then put into their Heads these rare Assertions, and these choice Arguments, which appeared afterwards, with so much lustre, in the *Diary*; and thus it was that he led them up into that *high Dance*, in which he, as well as they, have staggered and tumbled about ever since.

But besides this particular *Triumvirate*, I find by a Paper subjoin'd to the *Reply*, that some more of the *Fraternity* have allowed themselves to appear, as the poor *Tools* of this single Man, and indeed it is the more surprising, that Men of the least Understanding, should pretend to give a Judgment, when they only *echo back* these imaginary Circumstances that are contained no where else but in Dr. *Roger's Diary*. Their Opinion is given as to *three* Particulars, each of which may be easily cleared up. The *first* regards the Bleeding, they say, Bleeding was improper, because that Day being the 14th of Mr. *Baker's* Illness was deem'd critical, and a *Crisis expected*; but by whom was it expected? not by three of the four, since they declared they expected his Death (which was indeed a Crisis of a different kind) and every Circumstance makes it evident, that Dr. *Rogers* gave all the Family sufficient Reason to believe he thought so too, for no after sayings of his, will ever make it appear to any Body that a Crisis was expected by him, *much less by the Majority of the four*, which is the Sense in which these Gentlemen *ought alone to have understood it*, they were indeed, obliged to call it Critical, because Dr. *Rogers* was pleased to put it down so, and to be sure the Expression is so remarkable that it could come from no other Pen. But supposing there was an *Inflammation in the Brain*, the Evidence of which, I believe, they had not seen, I fancy they would not have then ventured to condemn what both Dr. *Mead* and Dr. *Frewin* in their Letters to Dr. *Rogers* have particularly allow'd of in the Case of that *Symptom*. They next condemn the Change of Mr. *Baker's* Drink from *Port Whey*, which was made without any Water, to *Water Sack Whey*. Now their Ignorance of the Inflammation occasioned this other Mistake of theirs, as the Strength of the *Port* tended to increase that Inflammation,

mation, neither were they, it seems, apprised that the *Port Whey* Mr. *Baker* drank afterwards, was plentifully mixed with Water.

The *last* Particular they take Notice of, is, the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*, which they confine to *Gleets*, *Fluor Albus*, *Gonorrhæas*, and *Hemorrhages*, and absolutely exclude it in all inflammatory Disorders, and call a *Drachm and a half* in *eighteen Hours* a *surprising Quantity*, and *unsafe* and *injudicious* in Mr. *Baker's* Case. Now Dr. *Mead* has informed their Judgments as to this Point, in his Letter to Dr. *Blair*, wherein he mentions *his having used it for fifty Years with great Success*, and that in the Case of *slow Heetic Fevers*, particularly when attended with a *Looseness*, which was the very Case of Mr. *Baker*: In which Circumstances that learned Gentleman (who is now by all allowed to be the most eminent in his Profession) declares, *that he reckoned no less than two or three Drachms given at different Times, to be a convenient Dose*. It is very diverting, that in the Conclusion of this Paper, which is called the Opinion of these eight Gentlemen, there are numbered up no less than 228 *Drops* of this Tincture, with an *Apostrophe* of Wonder, as if but a few Drops of it had been sufficient, instantly, to have killed any man: Now how must they be struck dumb, when Dr. *Mead* declares 456 Drops to be *a convenient Dose*, and that to be taken not only in one 24 Hours, but *every* 24 Hours. I believe the Majority of these Gentlemen are by this Time sufficiently ashamed of their having been drawn in so simply to sign a Paper which Dr. *Rogers* had *penn'd* for them, when they had so *slightly* considered the Merits of the Affair, and indeed I have the Charity to think, that as this Paper of theirs has *no Date*, they were prevailed upon to sign it in a Hurry, and at the Beginning of the Dispute, before Dr. *Blair's*
Case

Case was published, when they had not yet access to see the whole Course of the Evidence that is there annexed, and therefore as to them I may say, that since it appears to be a *Sin of Ignorance*, they may be the more easily forgiven.

But after all, I cannot help observing to you, that if any Boldness in Practice of which, this of Dr. Blair has not appeared to be such, I say, if any *Boldness in Practice* was ever allowed of, or if any Physicians can be excused to venture any unprecedented Medicine which promises to turn the Current of a Disease, that seems hurrying the Patient to Death, Dr. Blair would have been sufficiently justified, *had he used any such*, from the acknowledged Desperateness of Mr. Baker's Situation.

As I have thus far given you an Abstract of the Points in dispute, I must now set before you some *Specimens* of the Humanity and Tenderneſs which these four Gentlemen say they have done their utmost to exercise towards Dr. Blair.

Now by this we may understand, that they had particularly in their Eye these rich *Epithets*, which in the Course of the *Reply* as well as in their *Diary*, are so lavishly bestowed on Dr. Blair. They are, indeed, so numerous, that a *Gentleman of Rank and Character in this Neighbourhood* (to whom the Doctor is not even known but by the Bustle of this Affair) has for his Amusement: selected from the *Reply* upwards of *Sixty of these choice Passages*, which he has sent him, having conceived they should be treasured up like the modern Collections of the *Flowers of the Poets*, if he did not rather take the Hint from Cookery, thinking they should be preserved as excellent *Pickles* ready to be lent out to all Authors, for the giving a strong Relish and a *Haut-gout* to such Performances, as might have been otherwise tasteless, without a little of the Bitter and
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the Sour which are the standard Ingredients of these *high Sawces* that have been in Use among all *Cooks* and *controversial Writers* both ancient and modern.

But to heighten their Piece a little more, I must acquaint you, that whenever they have got any Thing which they conceive to be strong and pithy against Dr. *Blair*, they are sure to usher it in with certain mock Prefaces, of great Reluctance, much Compassion, and a Kind of *Pang of Regret*; which puts one in mind of what *Sueton* says of the Behaviour of *Domitian*, though the Instance is both too strong and too lofty for the Feebleness of their Wrath, viz. "That this Emperor *of merciful and compassionate Memory*, never ordered any to Execution, without beginning the Sentence with a particular Encomium on his own Clemency, and the great Concern it gave him to be instrumental in the Death of one of his Subjects *." These are some of their literary Arts, but they did not bridle in their Resentment here, conceiving they could do Execution in a more effectual Manner. For they first threatened the *Managers of the Infirmary at Cork*, that if Dr. *Blair* should be continued as a joint Physician in that *Hospital*: they would not only desert it with their Attendance, but get all their Friends to withdraw their *Subscriptions*, which so alarmed the Directors of that Charity, which is but now in its Infancy: that they desired Dr. *Blair* not to continue his Attendance; notwithstanding of which, he still continues his Subscription in the same Manner as

* Et quo contentius abuteretur patientia hominum, nunquam tristiores sententiam, sine præfatione clementiæ. pronuntiavit; ut non aliud jam certius atrocis exitus signum esset, quam principii lenitas. — "Permittite, Patres Conscripti, a pietate vestra impetrari, quod scio me difficulter impetraturum, ut damnatis liberum mortis arbitrium indulgeatis. Nam & par cetis oculis vestris & intelligent me omnes senatui interfuisse.

SUETON IN DOMITIAN. §. 11.

before

before. However they did not even stop here, but drew up a *Paper* to be signed by all the Physicians they could influence, or terrify, and which was signed by a certain Number; containing “a mutual Combination of all the Persons who put their Names to it, binding them up, from consulting with Dr. *Blair*, under certain particular Penalties therein mentioned.” But this soon dissolved of itself, as an *illegal Deed* which was found to be rather more detrimental to the Gentlemen who signed it than to any other, so that it remains only in Remembrance here, as a *Ruin* and a *Wreck* of that Storm, which raged only at the Expence of those who raised it; whereas it has roll’d on to answer all the good Purposes their Adversary could have desired or expected from the strongest Sunshine of their Favour; like these seemingly contradicting and secondary Causes of elemental Strife, that operate in Nature for the bringing forward the General Good.

But after all these different and bootless Attempts of theirs, to hurt their Adversary in the only Ways that they thought they could pierce him, it is to me astonishing how they can pretend with any Face to say, that they never once attempted to persecute Dr. *Blair*. For about the Close of the *Reply* they declare, “that they find themselves under an indispensable Necessity to take Notice of the old Watch Word *Persecution*, that has been of late so craftily promulgated to support a bad Cause; for we assure our Fellow Citizens, (continue they) in the most sacred Manner, that we utterly abhor and renounce a Principle of so black a Dye.” Nay, in the Preface, we have a more formal *Affidavit* of theirs, tho’ it is not mentioned to have been taken before the *Worshipful DANIEL CRONE, Esq;* or any of the *worthy Aldermen or Justices of the City of Cork*; yet certain we may be, they mean to say, that they

they had the Fear of God before their Eyes, and were to speak the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth; For thus it runs, *First then, say they, We, previous to all other Considerations, do most solemnly declare, that no Prejudice, Pique, Party, or Principle of Persecution, (so uncharitably and unchristianly laid to our Charge) mixes in any Shape with this our Design.* Now they ought to have borrowed a little of the Stile of an *Act of Parliament* to have brought up the Rear of this solemn Protestation. *viz.* Nothing in this after Treatise, of ill Names, bitter Words most artfully and physically sweetned up with Compassion, *Accusations* of Subornation and Perjury when peradventure the Facts lie t'other Way, *insisting* with the Managers of the Infirmary that Dr. Blair should no more attend there, *entering* into a Combination of as many of the Faculty as by Threats and Promises can be drawn in, who upon their Faith and their Honour are not to consult with the said Dr. Blair; *these and every Thing else of a more contradictory Nature* NOTWITHSTANDING. Now, as I cannot make this Affidavit of theirs and their own Words so exactly to tally as I could have wish'd, I must therefore ascribe it to my own Inability and want of Judgment rather than to any Forgetfulness in the Gentlemen, or to any Contradiction in the Things themselves. I can match it, however, to you in a remarkable Instance of the like Kind, that happen'd a Couple of Centuries ago, and this surely ought to have its proper Weight, as according to the excellent Method of *Analogy*, so fashionable at present; a good Simile is reckoned equivalent to the best of Arguments. *In the Year then 1527, when the City of Rome was taken by Charles V's Army, Poor Pope Clement VIIth retired into the Castle of St. Angelo, where the Emperor kept him for some Time*

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coop'd

coop'd up and imprison'd. Now as *Charles* was sensible that a *little Slander of Enmity and Persecution* lay against him, he was resolv'd to wipe it off with a little Decency, and therefore order'd a Publick Fast to be made, and Prayers to be offer'd up in all the Churches of *Rome*, "for the Health and speedy Liberty of his Holiness," as being the only great and important Petition he had to make to Heaven, which he confirm'd upon the *Honour of a King*, and the *Faith of a Christian*, to be the Thing in the World he had most at Heart *.

So much for the *Medical Affair*, of which I have given you a sufficient Doze; and as you may be apt to muse upon it, as a Thing altogether *singular*, and not to be match'd in any other Sphere of Life, I shall conclude this with a *Paper* which is just come to my Hands, and which will sufficiently correct your Mistake in that Article. For here you will find that former Ages have produced such Things as are the very *Pictures* and *Parallels*, both of the Virtues and Wickedness of the Times in which we now live; and it will even prove to you, that there is an astonishing Similarity in Events which happen now and then *wonderfully* on the very same Spots of Ground. In what Year, or in whose Reign the Transaction happened, which is contained in the following Narrative, is hard to determine, as it was found *without a Date*; and indeed we can't help supposing that it happen'd at least 100 Years ago, as the *Clergyman* among whose Papers it was discover'd, had added a Note to the End of it to this Purpose; "That having accidentally met with this Account, wrote in a *Saxon* Character, and in an uncouth, and grotesque Sort of Language, he had with some Difficulty rendered it into modern English." And we may the more readily depend on

* See *Gregorio Leti's* Life of that Emperor and *Sleidan's* History.

on the Veracity of this Article, as the Clergyman was well known to be a Man of remarkable Honesty, as well as of excellent Understanding.

But before you can readily comprehend the particular References in this Paper, I must give you a short Account of the Situation of this *City of Cork*, where the Affair pass'd. This Town then lies upon a fine navigable River, about ten or twelve Miles from the Sea; the happy Situation of it for Trade, had induc'd the first Inhabitants to cut the Ground upon which the Town stands, and which is quite level, into a Number of different *Quays* and *Canals* for the Convenience of Warehouses for Merchants. This Circumstance however has obliged them to build a considerable Number of *Bridges*, to the Amount of at least 30 or 40 at different Places over these Canals.

The Beef and Butter, which are the Staple Commodities of the Town, being ready barrell'd up in Warehouses, are carried down the Canals in Lighters, and so put aboard the Ships who commonly lye at Anchor some Miles down the River. Now the Tide flows in these Canals to a great Height, but at low Water they are left quite dry, and that for an Hour or two together. The Side of one of these Quays or Canals has been frequented, Time out of Mind, by all the *Beau Monde* of the Town, on Account of its being pleasanter than the rest, and therefore by Prescription has been long distinguished by the Name of *the Mall of the City of Cork*.

It was then in the Evening of one of the sultry Days of *July*, that one Mr. *Godfrey Bateman*, Mercht. happened to be walking with his Wife, in this Place of Publick Resort, by way of cooling and refreshing themselves, after the Heat of the Day; they were now upon their Return home, and Mrs. *Bateman* had already passed a Bridge,

known

known by the Name of *Tuckey's Bridge*, when her Husband was kept behind, talking to a Gentleman about some Business; he was now hurrying forward to cross the Bridge, to overtake his Wife, when he was met by a Carriage in the Middle of the said Bridge, which made him step upon one of the Edges, and by the slipping of a loose Stone, *tumbled* most unfortunately into the Canal, which happened to be quite full, by reason of its being then high Water. There was a great Crowd soon gather'd about the two Sides of the Canal, as well as on the Bridge, occasioned by the Shreeks and Lamentations of Mrs. *Bateman*, who stood like a distracted Person, calling for Help from every Body who came near her. Her Friends, at length, procured a Rope, and employed four People, (who were thought to know something of the Matter) to use their utmost Endeavours to save Mr. *Bateman's* Life. Their Names were *Joseph Roxton*, *Francis Flatty*, *Jeffrey Connor*, and *Peter Bummer*. They began then to throw in the End of the Rope for Mr. *Bateman* to lay hold of, but in the Dark, and his half drown'd Condition, he was unable to catch it; notwithstanding of which for some time, they continued throwing the Rope, and pulling it back again, without any Effect; at length they fell upon a new Method, *Roxton* and *Connor* seized one End of the Rope, and made *Flatty* and *Bummer* taking hold of the other End, run across the Bridge to the opposite Side of the Canal, and then skimming the Water with the Rope, till they felt it come close to Mr. *Bateman's* Body, they then pulled it back, wards and forwards, and walk'd upon the Brink, pretending the Tide would soon run off, and leave Mr. *Bateman* alive and dry, in the middle Bed of the Canal. At length they gave Mr. *Bateman* up for lost, said that a *Boat* might be brought at Leisure

sure, to fish for the Body, and that the *Coroner* was now the proper Person to be applied to, for determining the Manner of his Death. Mrs. *Bateman*, in a frantick Manner, still called for Compassion on her poor helpless Children, applied to every Body to try what yet could be done to save her Husband ; but Mr. *Roxton* and the other three had fallen into an Argument, *whether* he was intitled to *Christian Burial*, and little regarded the Cries and Lamentations of Mrs. *Bateman*.

Just at this Conjunction there was a Gentleman passing who had not heard of this unhappy Accident, and step'd into the Crowd to know what was the Matter ; he run immediately where he heard Mrs. *Bateman*'s Groans, she implored his Assistance for a poor helpless Family that was just plunging into Ruin. *There my dear Husband sinks, Ob! Sir, can't you save him?* This Gentleman's Name was *Bland*, and I'm the more particular in every Circumstance because of the unaccountable Prosecution his Conduct afterwards brought upon him. Mr. *Bland* then immediately catch'd hold of a *Plank* which lay upon the Quay, and throwing it into the Canal, he called for the *Rope* the other Gentlemen had made Use of ; he scrambled down till he got his Feet upon the Plank, which was floating on the Water, and stepping as far as he could on it with Safety, he threw a Double of the Rope about Mr. *Bateman*'s Head, which had then just appeared above Water ; he pulled the Body gently towards him, and fasten'd the Rope about his Middle, then reaching the End of it to those who stood upon the Quay, Mr. *Bateman* was hawl'd up, while Mr. *Bland* staid below, to keep his Body from rubbing upon the Stones as they dragg'd him from above. When Mr. *Bateman* was first brought upon the Quay, he scarce shew'd any Signs of Life, but in a little Time it was found
by

by one of the Women, that he breath'd, and you know after that, proper Care will soon recover a Man in this Condition. The first Hopes recovered poor Mrs. *Bateman* from the Agony she had been in, she pour'd forth Blessings upon *Bland*, and talk'd of *Roxton's* Behaviour and the other three, tho' not in the Terms of the highest Acknowledgment. But this was a Circumstance that proved very unlucky for poor Mr. *Bland*, as it drew upon him the Envy and Resentment of the other four, insomuch, that they could hardly refrain from beating him upon the Spot. They were resolv'd not to allow him to touch Mr. *Bateman*, whom they carried home to his House, expressing to each other as they went along, "their mutual Satisfaction in having so happily preserved Mr. *Bateman's* Life." One would have imagin'd that this Narrative would have ended here of Course, with acquainting you that Mr. *Bateman* was drain'd of the Water he had got in his Lungs, and being kept warm, and supplied with Cordials, that he was in a very good Way next Morning.

But all this you have read, is but a slight Preface to what follows. For the Day following Messrs. *Roxton* and *Bummer*, with their two Brethren, lodged a Complaint before the Sheriff against Mr. *Bland*, the Substance of which was as follows ;
 " That Mr. *Godfrey Bateman* Citizen of *Cork*, had
 " fallen by Accident from *Tuckey's Bridge* into the
 " Canal, upon Monday last being the 11th Day of
 " July, or one or other of the Days of the said
 " Month of July, and that whilst they the Plan-
 " tiffs were using all proper Means and Endeavours
 " to save his Life, one *Patrick Bland* a Vagabond,
 " with a wicked and malicious Intention, had then
 " and there, thrown a large Log of Wood, at the
 " said Mr. *Bateman's* Head, and moreover when
 " the

*This must be
 the Doctor
 Patrick Blair
 who falsified
 a small volume
 of Cans & the
 Inquiries*

“ the said Vagabond found his Brains not knocked
 “ out, he went still on in his execrable Design,
 “ and endeavoured to *strangle* the said *Bateman*, by
 “ *tying a Rope* about his Neck. That Mr. *Bateman*,
 “ after these Injuries, was brought upon the Quay
 “ in an expiring Condition, and that if they, the said
 “ Plaintiffs had not instantly interpos’d, and carried
 “ Mr. *Bateman* home to his own House, the said
 “ *Bland* would have compleated his barbarous De-
 “ sign upon the Spot, and would have, no doubtr,
 “ proceeded to have ripp’d him up.”

This Charge rather astonish’d than alarmed Mr. *Bland*, all he thought necessary to vindicate himself, was a simple Representation of the Case, which was really so probable that it began to gain Credit every where, and the *Sheriff* shew’d evidently that he desir’d the Prosecution might be drop’d. But this Appearance of Things tended only to exasperate his Antagonists, who were now determin’d to go greater Lengths, as they had by this Time formed themselves into an Alliance against him, both offensive and defensive. In Consequence of which there was a formal Declaration made publick to varnish over what they had already advanced, and to blacken the Part of Mr. *Bland*. This Piece was a Kind of *Journal* of the Transactions of about 15 Minutes, and was introduced by way of a Letter from *Somebody* recommending it to *Any-body*, tho’ it was said to contain the Sentiments of *Every-body**. It was there said that the *Journal* was “ Nature’s own Dictates, minuted down in a short concise Manner from her own Mouth.” I shall give you as much as I can recollect of it.

On Monday *July* 11th, at 6 Minutes after 9o’

* This Sentence would make one believe that this Piece had been wrote in the *quaint* Days of King *James* I.

Clock in the Evening, Mr. *Bateman* tumbled over *Tuckey's Bridge* into the Canal.

7th and 8th Minutes Mrs. *Bateman* howl'd,—
Self, *Flatty*, *Connor*, and *Bummer* came in
the Crowd.

9th, 10th and 11th Minutes—All four particularly desired to assist,—procured a Rope,
—threw it in,—pull'd it out, —twice
more and pull'd it out.

12th and 13th Minutes—Threw in a Rope,
Connor and Self,—pull, pull, pull.

14th and 15th Minutes—All four in Consultation, —*Flatty* and *Bummer* run across the
Bridge with the End of the Rope—*Bummer's*
Wig drop'd,—held the Rope across the
Canal touching Mr. *Bateman's* Body.

16th Minute — Pull'd backwards,—pull'd
forwards,—pull'd up, — pull'd down, —
ten Pulls this Minute.

17th and 18th Minutes,—Consultation,—
drop'd the Rope till that was over.

19th Minute, — The Rope missing,—Mr.
Bateman found upon the Quay with his Skull
bruised,—Marks of Violence about his Neck,
—told a vile Vagabond one *Bland* had
thrown a monstrous Log of Wood at him,
and taken the Rope and strangled him—
indecent Language from *Bland*.

20th and 21st Minutes, — By resuming our
Care, and renewing our salutary Methods,
Mr. *Bateman* is carried to his own House, and
by the Blessing of God upon our Endeavours
he is happily recover'd.—No Mr. *Bland*.

Then follows the Declaration, in which Mr. *Bland*
is charg'd with stealing the Rope with an evil In-
tention. They assert that Mr. *Bateman's* best
Chance for Life, was to have continued safe and un-
hurt

hurt, in the Middle of the soft Water, which, no Doubt, was soon to leave him dry, by the going out of the Tide ; they withal affirm, that when he was brought out upon the Quay, he was in a much more dangerous State than before, as appeared by certain *Pukings, Convulsions, &c.* which, no Doubt, came from the Mischief he receiv'd by the said Log of Wood ; *they procure Certificates* to show “ that knocking a Man in the Head, whilst in the Water, or tying a Rope hard about his Neck, were execrable Practices.” They further take Notice, of a Report spread by Mr. *Bland*, that he had never touch'd the Rope till they threw it down, gave up Thoughts of saving Mr. *Bateman*, and sent for the Coroner; this they call a horrid, vile and scandalous Lye.

In Answer to this, appeared a Paper of Mr. *Bland's*, in which is produced Affidavits of different People, who had been present, supporting the Truth of the Facts already mentioned in this Narrative, proving with a particular Detail, that they had all four given Mr. *Bateman* up for lost, and had formally sent for the Coroner with his Inquest, and that Mr. *Bland* did not steal the Rope, but had taken it up at the earnest Prayers of Mrs. *Bateman*, after the other four Gentlemen had laid it down. He over and above, procured a Certificate from a *Gentleman*, the most famous in these Days for having saved Multitudes of drowning Men, and who had likewise been appeal'd to by the other Party, *declaring* “ that a Plank was very proper to enable
 “ him to reach Mr. *Bateman's* Body, as he had him-
 “ self used that Method with great Success for 50
 “ Years, and withal adding that if Mr. *Bateman's*
 “ Head was the only Part above Water, he was in
 “ the Right to throw the Double of the Rope over
 “ it, because if he had been suffered to sink once

“ more, it is probable he never would have come up alive.”

This was a severe Stroke upon the unfortunate Mr. *Roxton*, he shew'd many Signs of a disorder'd Mind. The Moment he enter'd his House he chid his Daughters bitterly, and the repeated Sound of Blows was heard by some of the Neighbours from without, tho' by the Hollowness of the Report, it was thought they were discharg'd upon a large Wainscott Table that was known to be in his House. He continued in this odd Behaviour for the Space of four Hours, in which he sat down and stalk'd about by Intervals, tumbled the Chairs about the Room, often knitting his Brows and muttering short and dislocated Sentences, to the Terror of his whole Family, who during all that Time would not venture to come near him. By the Fatigue of all these Gestures, he at length threw himself into a great Chair, where he soon fell asleep, and waked in about an Hour and a half, greatly becalm'd and refresh'd, and now he call'd the Maid to bring him some *Shibbeen* *, finding his Mouth greatly parch'd with the Agony he had been in ; he had scarcely taken a Draught when a *Rap* came to the Door, which prov'd to be Messrs. *Flatty*, *Connor* and *Bummer*, who were most thankfully let in by the Family, as they knew they were in the Secret of his Disorder. There was not a Word spoke by any of them for some Time. At length, Brother *Roxton*, says Mr. *Flatty*, it was indeed unlucky that you should have mentioned the Coroner. Zounds, says *Roxton*, did not you say he was drown'd as well as I ; No, reply'd *Flatty*, I only said, that if Mr. *Bateman* was not almost gone or nearly spent

* A Kind of Malt Liquor very famous in *Ireland* in those Days, tho' at present, like other ancient Things, it has fallen into some Disrepute.

he would have been able to take Hold of the Rope; they began upon this, to dispute most toughly about the hearing the Words *nearly* and *almost*, and were likely to proceed to Extremities, when Mr. *Bummer* interpos'd with a half Smile upon his Countenance, said, he hop'd they would behave together like Christians, begg'd then not to blunt their Stings or spit their Venom against one another, put them in Mind that they had a Common Enemy for whom it was proper they should reserve their whole collected Magazine of *Wrath*. And now, Gentlemen, says he, give me Leave to make a Motion. Consider we are already so far embark'd, that it would be foolish and ridiculous to think of withdrawing, and indeed it is with Grief I say it, that we have hitherto but faintly and with Diffidence back'd our Assertions, and spoke to the World only as behind a Curtain; let us then come forth now in a Group, look big, and stare broad, and speak in a louder Tone than we did in the *Journal*, to which End, I propose it as an Effort still in our Power, that we should confound this Legion of Witnesses now brought against us, by denouncing deeper Curses, and heavier Judgments, than we have yet utter'd; and as I have been long deliberating on this Expedient, I am well assur'd and convinc'd, that it must instantly stagger the Sheriff, and knock down our Adversary. All the three were delighted with the Motion of Mr. *Bummer*, who had so happily recruited their broken Strength. And now Mr. *Roxton* was unanimously desired to draw up a Representation to the above Purpose, as they told him by way of Encouragement, " That *Dominichino* " himself, when he drew the furious Soldier, could " not horrify his Countenance half so much, by " way of putting himself in the proper *Pathos* " for

“ for Composition,*” as indeed every Body allow’d that Mr. *Roxton* possess’d a happy Talent in all the different *Orders* of Execration, from the *Gentle Rebuke* up to the most *Desperate Excommunication* by Bell, Book and Candle.

Mr. *Roxton* upon this yielded to their Intreaties, call’d immediately for Pen and Ink, and stepping into his Study, he brought from thence a Manuscript of his own, which he had been enlarging and increasing for the Space of forty Years. In short it contain’d *Extracts* of all the Speeches of the *Vices* and *Diaboli* that he could meet with in the theatrical Pieces of the Monks of the dark Ages, there were Translations of the different Incantations of the *Lapland Witches*, and he had collected from the *Spanish* Writers those oracular Sentences that were said to have been pronounced by the *Black Pagod of Peru*; but what he had copied over in the fairest Manner, was a compleat Set of the *Bulls* of the Popes, from the earliest Ages down to his own Time; his Favourites among which, were those terrible ones emitted against the *German* Emperors in the 11th and 12th Centuries, one of which he particularly valued as the Aple of his Eye, which was that of *Gregory Hildebrand* against *Henry IVth*, which made that poor Emperor (surnamed the *Unfortunate*) travel penitentially out of *Germany* and come *barefooted* to his Holiness at *Canusio* †. And this indeed he frankly own’d was the Piece that first hinted to him what might be the Excellence of such a Collection; for he had endeavour’d to imitate all his Life-time that shining Example, and

* This alludes to a famous Story of that great Painter, told by *Annibal Caracci*, and to be found in *Felibien* and all the other Writers of the Lives of the Painters.

† See the Collections of the *German* Historians by *Freberus*, *Reuberus* and *Ursifius*.

had even found it succeed with him almost without an Exception, before this unhappy Rencontre.

The ingenious *Joseph* then retired to a Corner of the Room, while the other three withdrew to the other End of it, where they kept a dead Silence, as the Breasts of each of them were plentifully fill'd with equal Portions of Anxiety and Expectation, which never fails to bring on a peculiar Solemnity of Behaviour.

But before Mr. *Roxton* proceeded to put Pen to Paper, he thought it proper first to kindle his Imagination and ripen his Faculties, by glancing over the shining Passages of his darling Miscellany, which appeared to him now as an *Armory*, containing the Implements of War of different Ages, some cluster'd in particular Figures upon the Walls, others piled in Heaps, many rusting in Sheaths and Scabbards, all resting themselves peaceably after the Execution they had done in former Days. He was soon lost in a *Reverie*, which fill'd him with all the *military Genius* of the first *Crusades*; he began to conceive his Adversary as a barbarous *Saracen* from the Desarts of *Arabia*, and of Course the Witnesses like the Swarms of *Mamelukes* that fought under his Banner; it was but an easy Transition to conceive his own Cause to be the Cause of God and Religion, where by a plenary Indulgence and Dispensation he thought it allowable to attack the Foe, by the Weapons of either Heaven, Earth, or Hell, according as any of them was nearest at Hand to be lanced against him. He soon return'd to himself, however, from this *Episode* of Fancy, to something more *apropos* to his Situation; but he still retained from his last Train of thinking, a Kind of Effervescence and Ebullition of Spirit towards the different Exertions both of Slander and Panegyrick, which tho' the very *Antipodes* of Composition to
each

each other, are yet by a wonderful Paradox generally found to be Brethren and Fellow-Citizens, dwelling often in the same Book, the same Chapter, the same Page, and sometimes even in the same individual Line.

He proceeded now (as being in a proper Trim) to draw up the *Defence* and *Reply* they had jointly agreed upon, the Substance of which was as follows.

We *Joseph Roxton, Francis Flatty, Jeffry Connor, and Peter Bummer*, in regard to Truth, Honour, Honesty and Conscience, are the four most virtuous Men this Day upon the Face of the Earth, nor do we think ourselves in the least inferior, to any of the ancient Patriarchs, Prophets or Apostles. They here declared they were rejoiced that they had it in their Power, to detect a deep and dangerous Conspiracy of a numerous Knot of Villains, who had treacherously impos'd upon the World, and threatned to infect and debauch all the Innocent and Ignorant of the Land. That it was not therefore in behalf of themselves they pretended to say any Thing, as being but little concern'd in the Affair, but that they thought it incumbent upon them to divert that Vengeance which was ready to burst, not only upon the City of *Cork*, but over the large and extensive Province of *Munster*. They went on, declaring, that as they were not asham'd to appear in the Cause of Truth, so they had also a particular *Feeling* for their Friends, their Countrymen and their Fellow-Citizens, and were therefore determin'd for their joint Interest to be the publick Guardians of the Bodies and Lives of all within that spreading Territory. They proceeded next to a particular Attack upon the Malignants of the opposite Faction, by bestowing several Curses upon poor Mrs. *Bateman*, whom they accus'd of Ingratitude, and being
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used by her like Scaffolding to a Building. They discharged at least thirty Oaths at proper Pauses against every Individual of the whole Corps of the Witnesses, which went off like the dropping Cannon at the Funeral of a *Field-Marshal*. But the Imprecations against *Bland* were too thick and too loud to be number'd, as they flash'd out and thunder'd, faster than the nightly Batterings at a *Beleaguerr'd Town*; and tho' they seem'd to forget him now and then in some little Digressions, yet it was only collecting, combining, and pointing their united Strength to bring him down with the Fury of a new Blast. Upon all Occasions they took Care to mention the Man that was knock'd on the Head on Monday last, and the infamous Vagabond who did the Deed, as particularly as if they had plainly prov'd the Facts to be true, or the Evidence to the contrary good for nothing. In short, it concluded with declaring that the Whole of the Affidavits were horrid, scandalous, impious, and detestable Misrepresentations, wickedly procured by this Vagabond, whose Behaviour we are extremely sorry, say they, compells us to prosecute him as the Law directs,

Sic subr.

Joseph Roxton.

Francis Flatty.

Jeffry Connor.

Peter Bummer.

Upon Mr. *Roxton's* reading the above Piece to the other three, they all broke out into the highest Extasies of Transport, and declar'd by many curious Figures of Rhetorick, their prodigious Astonishment how he could so happily personate the Sentiments of them all, and that too in so loud an Accent, as if they together in a *Chorus* had given their Breath to every Note. He stop'd them however soon with a

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Treue des Compliments, rung for the Maid to carry off the *Sbibbeen*, and order'd in a Bottle of good comfortable *Port* which was his favourite Liquor, by way of rejoicing over their Enemies.

They repair'd early next Morning to the Sheriff with their *Reply*, who on perusing it, disappointed them not a little, by repeating his old Advice to them with more Earnestness than before, and hinting too by-the-by, that he thought it their Interest that the whole Affair should be forgot. *Roxton* reply'd in the Name of the Rest, " That they could
 " not in Conscience consent to allow a Man to live
 " among them, who would no doubt propagate
 " that damnable Doctrine of knocking People in
 " the Head in the Water, which could so easily be
 " practised in a Country where there were so many
 " large, deep, and navigable Rivers, and People
 " tumbling into them from Time to Time.."

Here the Manuscript was most unhappily tore at this critical Place, so that I am unable to acquaint you with the final Issue of the Affair. I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing you soon, and therefore at present shall conclude with declaring myself, with great Sincerity,

Yours, &c.

LETTERS

LETTERS *referr'd to.*

Dr. MEAD to Dr. ROGERS.

S I R,

London, Sept. 17th, 1748.

I RECEIVED the Favour of your Letter yesterday, and am very glad that the small Service I did, in recommending you to the Royal Society, was so acceptable to you. I make no Doubt but when Occasion offers, the Society will reap Benefit from so worthy a Member.

The Case you are pleased to mention (of a young Gentleman) your Patient, together with three other Physicians, who had a nervous Fever, &c. to whom without your Knowledge, a Physician was call'd in, who put him into a new Regimen, *viz.* Bleeding, Cooling, with cool distill'd Waters, impegated with a Drachm of the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*, is really I think somewhat extraordinary. You desire my Opinion of such Management; more particularly as to the Bleeding, and (because this Practitioner justify'd himself by producing an original Prescription of mine, in which the *Tinctura Antiphthysica* is order'd for one Mr. *Stawell*) as to the Use of this Medicine.

You will easily believe, Sir, that in my Multiplicity of Cases, I cannot remember for what Disease, I directed this Tincture: But this I will venture to say, I should not have given it in the Case of your Patient, in which, such warm, diaphoretic Remedies, you mention, seem to have been necessary; with Blisters, &c. As to the Bleeding in the frontal Vessels, I should think it too bold a Practice in so great Weakness, and so late in the Disease; *unless the Pulse was uncommonly hard and strong; and attended with an Inflammation of the Brain, or some Symptom of that Kind.*

As to the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*; I have ever since I began to practice, used it with great Success in many Cases: Particularly in Hectic Fevers, (but never in the acute) Spittings of Blood, Heat of the Kidneys, simple Gonorrhæas, &c. It was, you know, first recommended by *Etmullerus*; who from its Effect gave it the Name: And is put into our new *Pharmacopeia* (under the Title of *Tinctura Saturnina*) and in that of *Edinburgh* and all the best of the foreign ones.

Saccharum Saturni I have never used internally; but externally often. Whether as *Lancisi* and *Bagliivi* told you, it works like a slow Poison I cannot judge. You know there is a great Difference

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ference between a corrosive Salt given in Substance, and a Tincture made of the same in Spirit of Wine, and given in small Doses. With true Respect

I am,

Sir,

Your most Obedient, Humble Servant,

R. M E A D.

Dr. FREWIN to Dr. ROGERS.

S I R,

Oxford, Jan. 16th, 1748-9.

YOUR Letter dated Nov. 1st. I received about the latter End of that Month. You are pleased to pay Compliments to me, and Deference to my Judgment, much greater than I have a Right to: But at the same Time have engaged me in an Affair very disagreeable to my Inclinations, of being Arbitrator in the Disputes of Physicians. In my Opinion, the Gentlemen do their Adversary too much Honour in applying to a Physician of another Nation.

However since you say four Physicians of good Character, are concerned in the Dispute, you shall have my Thoughts.

I must therefore declare, that I think it a Point agreed on by the best Practitioners and Writers, that at a Time when a Crisis is at hand (which you say the Gentlemen expected the fourteenth Night) Nature should not be interrupted by Bleeding or any other Evacuation: And particularly under such Circumstances as they describe their Patient to have been, at that Juncture, I think bleeding was improper. Tho' when Fevers run to a great Length, and there is no Sign of an approaching Crisis, it is not unusual with Physicians in England, to direct Bleeding at the Temporal Artery or at the Saphæna Vein, later than the fourteenth Day, when the Quickness and Strength of the Pulse or other Symptoms, require that Evacuation.

As for the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*, I never gave that Medicine, nor ever shall give it, in an acute continued Fever. When I have directed it, I have never given more than 30 Drops at a Time, and not more frequently than once in 6 Hours, generally in Bristol Water, or in some very temperate or cool Julap, as most agreeable to the Intention and Effect of that Tincture, which in my Opinion is of a coagulating Nature, and given with a View of inspissating the Juices.

I am ashamed to reflect that I have so long deferred my Answer to your Letter, but an Infirmary in my Eyes, and some melancholy Distress in my Family, and daily Engagements in Business, have prevented my Writing sooner, and will I hope prove my Excuse.

I am,

Sir,

Your most Obedient and most Humble Servant,

R. F R E W I N.

Dr. MEAD to Dr. BLAIR.

S I R,

London, Nov. 24th, 1748.

I HAVE received your Letter of the 6th, and am sorry to see Contests and warm Disputes among Physicians, whose Education and Knowledge of the World, ought to set them above Behaviour, *unbecoming* Gentlemen. But your Case is I must needs say very hard: To be reflected upon for ill Success in treating a Patient, is not unusual; but to be attack'd for curing in a desperate Disease, is quite uncommon.

I have read the printed Relation of Mr. Baker's Case which you have been pleased to send me, that which you mention as published by Dr. Rogers, or his Friend, I have not yet seen. But it is most astonishing, that your Enemies should give out, that the Receipt which you have publish'd as mine, should be forged. Such Practices must, in the End, turn out to the Shame and Confusion of those who use them.

When Dr. Rogers wrote to me, by way of Appeal to my Judgment, I plainly told him, that altho' I could not be a Judge of all the Circumstances of Mr. Baker's Case, yet as to the *Tinctura Antiphthysica*, to which he made his main Objection, as unsafe and a Kind of Poison, it was a Medicine which I had made Use of with great Success, for these fifty Years: I wonder'd indeed that he should be a Stranger to it, having been first invented by Etmuller, and recommended by our great Mr. Boyle, and published in almost all the foreign *Pharmacopeias*, as well as in our late London one. The Cases in which I chiefly use it, are slow hectic Fevers, particularly when attended with a Looseness, profuse Sweats and a Coliquation of the Humours; I reckon two or

three Drachms given at different Times in cooling Liquors every four and twenty Hours, to be a convenient Dose.

I hope, that if Dr. Rogers thinks fit to publish any Thing as from me, he will be so fair as to do it in my own Words.

If it can be of any Service to you to shew this, either to your Friends or Enemies, you have full Liberty to do it; for I am always on the Side of *Truth* and *Humanity*. I wish you always good Success in your Business, and am

Sir,

Your most Obedient, Humble Servant,

R. MEAD.

D I N I S